

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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Comment and Criticism.

THE description of the first field firing practice of our Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry in another column is particularly important, not only because it is, we believe, the first attempt at this style of firing in this country, but because it is in itself an interesting practice, combining skill in marksmanship and equitation with quickness of movement. For a first attempt, too, the scores made were excellent, especially in view of the rather long ranges. We are decidedly of opinion that a change should be made in this part of the regulations, for with short Sniders 500 yards is the greatest distance at which effective work can be depended on, as well as being in all probability the longest at which mounted infantry in this broken country would ever be called upon to go into action.

A LETTER from Colonel Ray, the commandant of the English volunteer artillery team that visited Canada two years ago, and a prominent member of the Council of the English National artillery association, to the President of the Dominion artillery association, will be read with interest; and pretty well disposes of the charge that there was any idea of taking an unfair advantage of the home volunteers by having permanent corps men on our teams, or that the English association did not understand the nature of our teams. The Dominion association deserves well of the country for having brought our artillerymen so prominently and favorably into notice, and we have never had the slightest doubt that its officials always acted in a straightforward way,

becoming to officers and British subjects, in their management of the association. Here is the letter to speak for itself:—

GROVE HOUSE, 19 Grove End Row, N.W., 29th Sept., 1886.

Dear Colonel Oswald—The observation attributed to me in the Canadian Militia Gazette of the 9th September by "Six by Nine" is substantially correct. But the feeling which prompted the remark he has entirely mistaken. It was really a feeling of regret (the only approach to regret that I felt the whole time I was in Canada) that my team were not to have a friendly contest with our old friends of A and B batteries as well as the other excellent detachments which confronted us. And I may add that it would cause profound regret at Shoeburyness amongst regulars and volunteers alike, if representatives of A and B batteries were not found amongst the Canadian team that visits England.

Yours very sincerely,

A. RAY,
Colonel English Volunteer Art.

CROWFOOT, Three Bulls, and some lesser luminaries from the North-west are now amongst us, having been brought down from their prairie homes that they might form a better idea of our civilization. That this object has been accomplished there is little doubt, but that their keener appreciation of our capabilities would have the effect of preventing rebellion in future we somewhat doubt. Such has not been the experience of the United States, for when excitement comes the young bucks are not controlled even though the old chiefs tell them they are kicking against the pricks. However, no harm can, and a measurable amount of good should, result from their visit, and everyone seems glad to have seen them.

THE *L'Original Advertiser* has been harping pretty persistently for some time past on the one string of the disorganization of the 18th battalion, and we only hope it has been harping loud enough to be heard to some purpose. We would welcome a good battalion in the County of Prescott, but the sooner every disorganized battalion in the country is exposed and struck off the list the sooner our Canadian militia will become thoroughly effective and properly respected.

THE *Broad Arrow* of the 25th September contains a very good editorial epitome of the Department of Militia's report on the operations undertaken in the far West for the suppression of Riel's rebellion. It includes a carefully correct account of all the operations, accompanied by pertinent running comments, and bestows a fair meed of praise on all concerned. The summary concludes with the remark that "the report gives a very complete account of the operations of each column, and is very clearly illustrated by sketches and plans. If one is inclined sometimes to smile at the precision of the plans when a certain mark is accompanied by a marginal note that 'A fell here,' 'B fell here,' allowance must be made for the pardonable vanity of a young nation having just successfully made its first campaign. The moral, to us who read the report in lesser Britain, is that the same spirit and same qualities animate all the races of greater Britain, and that if the forces of the whole empire could be united on a common system in a league of defence, not of defiance, the empire might face the remainder of the world in arms."